

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-11 (cancelled).

12. (New) A fuel injector for directly injecting fuel into a combustion chamber of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

a valve needle having a spray-discharge end, the valve needle having, at the spray discharge end, a valve-closure member that cooperates with a valve-seat surface, formed on a valve-seat member, to form a sealing seat;

at least one spray orifice provided downstream from the sealing seat; and

an armature that acts on the valve needle, the armature being positioned so as to be axially movable on the valve needle between a first limiting stop situated on the valve needle and a second limiting stop, wherein the armature is hydraulically damped at the first limiting stop by a pressure medium.

13 (New). The fuel injector as recited in claim 12, wherein the pressure medium is fuel.

14. (New) The fuel injector as recited in claim 13, wherein the fuel is one of gasoline and diesel fuel.

15. (New) The fuel injector as recited in claim 12, wherein the second limiting stop is one of: i) fixed nonadjustably to the valve needle, ii) fixed nonadjustably to an adjusting disk, or iii) fixed immovably with respect to a housing of the fuel injector.

16. (New) The fuel injector as recited in one claim 12, wherein, at least one of: i) on a side facing the armature, the first limiting stop has a first recess, and ii) the armature has, on a side facing the first limiting stop, a second recess.

17. (New) The fuel injector as recited in claim 16, wherein at least one of the first recess and the second recess are formed in single or multiple stages.

18. (New) The fuel injector as recited in claim 16, wherein at least one of the first recess and the second recess are partially bounded by the valve needle.

19. (New) The fuel injector as recited in claim 16, wherein at least one of: i) the first limiting stop has a plurality of first recesses, and ii) the armature has a plurality of second recesses.

20. (New) The fuel injector as recited in claim 16, wherein at least one of: i) the first limiting stop engages in the second recess situated in the armature, and ii) the armature engages in the first recess situated in the first limiting stop.

21. (New) The fuel injector as recited in claim 16, wherein at least one of: i) the armature, together with the first recess, forms at least one chamber having at least one throttling point, and ii) the first limiting stop, together with the second recess forms the at least one chamber having the at least one throttling point.

22. (New) The fuel injector as recited in claim 21, wherein the chamber is partially bounded by the valve needle.

23. (New) The fuel injector as recited in claim 16, wherein at least one of the first recess and the second recess, have a circular or annular design.